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An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted over approximately 1.4 acres. A liturature search and pedestrian survey failed to locate any prehistoriv, historic, or architectural resources.

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A Cultural Resources Survey of the Old Town Bend Revetment Phillips County, Arkansas-- Negative Finding Report

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

Jimmy McNeil
Staff Archeologist

September 1985

Abstract

On 10 September, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District Staff Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil, and Civil Engineer, Mr. David McNutt. Two failures at the Old Town Bend revetment were surveyed.

The two Old Town Bend areas are located in Township 4S, Range 5W, Section 14 NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, and Section 14 SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the Modoc, Arkansas-Mississippi Quadrangle Map. The repair area covers approximately 1.4 acres, each adjacent to the Mississippi River.

The proposed work includes repair and maintenance of the existing revetments. Maintenance may include grading, replacing the concrete skirt, and riprapping the top bank.

A literature search and a pedestrian survey did not locate any prahistoric, historic, or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

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Maps

Introduction

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil, and Civil Engineer, Mr. David McNutt, on 10 September 1985, within the Old Town Bend revetment right-of-way as directed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. The study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36CFR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

Project Description

The Old Town Bend revetment is located in Phillips County, Arkansas, Township 4S, Range 5W, Section 14 NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, and Section 14 SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 at river mile 642R and 643R, ranges 305-307 and 302-304, on the Modoc, Arkansas-Mississippi Quadrangle. The project will affect only the proposed revetment maintenance and repair area and the new revetment construction area (Maps 1 and 2). Equipment will be brought in by boat.

Environmental Setting

The project lies within the Mississippi River meander belt where alluvial deposits are more than 200 feet thick over unconsolidated material. Elevations range from 148 feet to 175 feet with a slope ranging from

1 to 3 percent. The higher elevations are mainly natural levees along present or old streams (Hogan and Gray 1974:2). The elevations and slopes do not apply to the man-made levees. Drainage is by bayous, sloughs, and man-made ditches.

The climate is generally warm during the summer and mild during the winter. Occasionally, there will be extremes in heat and cold temperatures. A great deal of the woodlands area in the county has been cleared. However, small areas of trees may be found near the edge of bayous and along the Mississippi River. Primarily, the trees are willow, oak, cottonwood, hackberry, and sycamore. Underbrush consists of cane, honeysuckle, blackberry and wild grape.

Fauna in the area are not plentiful. Mammals include: rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, deer, possibly mink, muskrat, and beaver. Numerous cottonmouths, rattlesnakes, and other reptiles are reported in the area.

Previous Research

Enough work has been conducted in the general area of the project, by such researchers as Phillips. Ford and Griffin (1951), to isolate and date major cultural periods. However, little survey research has been conducted in the immediate vicinity of the project. The most recent intensive survey work in this area was conducted by Soil Systems, Incorporated (1977), and McNeil (1982, 1984), both for the Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Results of the Records Search

The Arkansas Archeological Survey was not contacted for a records search because of the extremely small size of the project and the previous work conducted there. The National Register of Historic Places were consulted and no prehistoric, historic, or architectural cultural remains were recorded within the project area.

Survey Methodology and Results

The Old Town Bend revetment maintenance project areas was approximately 1.4 acres each in size. The survey limits extended 60.96 meters behind top bank and 30.48 meters on either side of the failure. The surface directly behind top bank was covered with grasses, bushes and trees, visibility was zero percent. However, a few meters behind top bank the ground had been plowed and rained on providing perfect visibility. The area of failure provided a clean view of the subsurface stratigraphy. The area profile was surface sand deposit to approximately 20 cm deep; 20 cm-190 cm was brown sandy clay alternating with light brown sand (each varve about 10 cm thick); 190 cm to unknown was blocky grayish brown clay.

Because of the poor visual conditions along top bank, shovel test units were dug every 30 meters. The field area was visually searched. Shovel cuts and along the eroding revetment profiles revealed no artifacts, features, nor soil discoloration that would indicate archeological sites.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore. it is recommended that any site encountered d..ring construction be protected from further damage, by stopping construction until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Resources Branch, Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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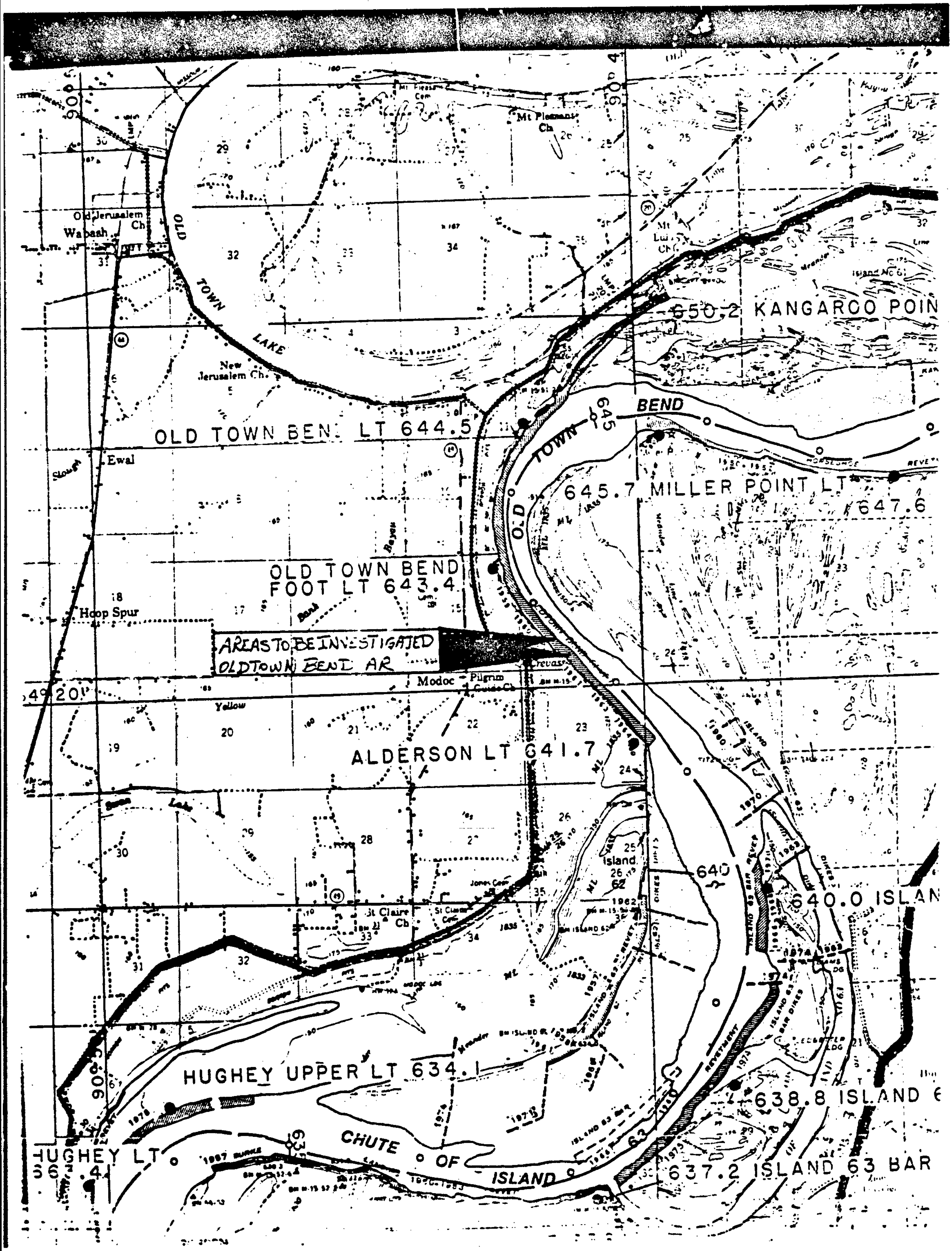

650.2 KANGAROO POIN
OLD TOWN BEN. LT 644.5
OLD TOWN BEND
645.7 MILLER POINT LT
647.6
OLD TOWN BEND
FOOT LT 643.4
AREAS TO BE INVESTIGATED
OLDTOWN BEND AR
ALDERSON LT 641.7
640.0 ISLAN
HUGHEY UPPER LT 634.1
638.8 ISLAND 6
HUGHEY LT
637.2 ISLAND 63 BAR
CHUTE OF ISLAND
OLD TOWN LAKE
Old Jerusalem Ch
Wabash
New Jerusalem Ch.
Mt Pleasant Ch
Ewal
Hoop Spur
Modoc
Pilgrim Guide Ch
Yellow
St Claire Ch
Island 26 62
Island No 61